REMARKS

- 1. The Examiner indicated that claims 45 and 69 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Rather than amending claims 45 and 69 to include the limitations of base/intervening claims 41/44 and 65/68, respectively, Applicant has amended independent claims 41 and 65 to include the limitations of claims 44/45, and 68/69, respectively. Thus, Applicant has amended the claims in order to place the application in condition for allowance.
- 2. For reasons already made of record, Applicant believes that claims 41-74 were allowable over the prior art of record. However, Applicant has amended claims 41 and 65 and canceled claims 42-45, 51-64, and 66-69 in order to proceed with the subject matter deemed allowable by the Examiner. Applicant expressly reserves the right to pursue the relinquished subject matter in one or more continuing applications.

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3. Claims 41, 46-50, 65, and 70-74 are now pending in this application. All pending claims are believed to be in a form suitable for allowance. Therefore, the application is believed to be in a condition for allowance. The Applicant respectfully requests early allowance of the application. The Applicant requests that the Examiner contact the undersigned, Jeffrey T. Klayman, if it will assist further examination of this application.

Date: June 21, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

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